

# KAUAI, DISCOVERED

Hawaii's Garden Isle offers towering sea cliffs, breezy pastures and lush, rainforested valleys. Here, five ways to take it all in. By Brian Berusch



**1 ECO** Go on a guided hike through **Koke'e State Park** (+1 808 335 9975; [www.kokee.org](http://www.kokee.org)), which borders 1093-metre-deep Waimea Canyon, and see why its twisting dales and rock formations inspired Mark Twain to call it the Grand Canyon of the Pacific. For a more subdued encounter with nature, try Allerton Gardens (+1 808 742 2623; [www.ntbg.org](http://www.ntbg.org)), with 40 cliff-top hectares and 268 species of rare native plants.

**5 FAMILY** With **Outfitters Kauai** (+1 808 742 9667; [www.outfitterskauai.com](http://www.outfitterskauai.com); \$106 per person), you'll be river kayaking through mangroves en route to hidden swimming holes. End the day with a wagon ride across landscapes you may recognise from *Jurassic Park*. **Kahuna Plantation & The Beach Bungalows** (+1 808 545 3510; [www.castleresorts.com](http://www.castleresorts.com); cottages from \$282) is like a holiday camp; its 14 oceanfront hectares are ideal for picnics and croquet games.



**2 WELLNESS** The 2.5-hectare **Kahuna Valley** (+1 808 822 4268; [www.kahunavalley.org](http://www.kahunavalley.org); doubles from \$172) retreat draws healing masters from around the globe to teach Qigong, Taoism, Reiki and Hawaiian Kahuna healing. At the spa, choose from hot-stone therapy, massage or a starlit watsu session with mineral-rich waters from the nearby Makaleha Mountains.



**3 LUXURY** Specialising in lavish private house rentals on the North Shore, **Pure Kauai** (+1 808 828 0380; [www.purekauai.com](http://www.purekauai.com); four nights from \$3254 per person) is all about pampering. Your concierge will arrange everything from a beachfront *luau* to sunrise yoga or private surf lessons. The **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa** (+1 808 742 1234; [www.kauai.hyatt.com](http://www.kauai.hyatt.com); doubles from \$466) unveils a new addition to its Polynesian-inspired Anara Spa – book an open-air *hale* for a lomilomi rubdown. +

**4 ADVENTURE** It is impossible to drive the roadless, 18km Napali Coast; instead, take in the dramatic 914-metre oceanfront cliffs from the sea. Since 1980, **Capt Andy's Sailing** (+1 808 335 6833; [www.napali.com](http://www.napali.com); \$151 per person for five hours) has been navigating Napali's waters – home to humpback whales, spinner dolphins and endangered sea turtles. On the North Shore, test your adrenaline threshold on horseback treks, Zodiac boat rides and ziplining at the **Princeville Resort** (+1 808 826 9644; [www.princevillehotelhawaii.com](http://www.princevillehotelhawaii.com); doubles from \$542).

**Spoilt for choice**  
Clockwise from top left: kayakers on the Huleia River; Kahuna Valley's saltwater watsu pool; the pool at Grand Hyatt Kauai's Anara Spa; sailing on the Napali Coast.





## A closer look

### 1. Natural beauty

The brief was clear. Keep it simple and natural. And Australian. Sydney design studio Pike Withers worked with rosewood, limestone and basalt to do just that. The lines are clean and the soft furnishings provide just a dash of colour.

### 2. Work it out

Neat and functional, the study corner of the sitting room faces away from the water. A sensible move. WiFi and broadband plus plug-in for digital cameras and MP3 players provide the necessities. The artwork of Torres Strait Islander Dennis Nona, featured throughout the resort, is the only distraction.

### 3. Round of pool

Each of the 27 windward pavilions has its own plunge pool. Lounge on the day bed while waiting for the sun to strike the pool's surface.

### 4. Soak it up

Two vanity units are at opposite ends of the no-fuss bathroom. With loads of fluffy white towels and Aesop beauty products, the spoon-shaped bath is perfectly positioned to take in the view.

### 5. Screened out

The one thing missing from the bedroom? A television. Now, that's an inspired idea. (It's in the sitting room.) Inviting king-sized bed, serious sheets and storage that is cleverly hidden keep the flow and serenity intact.

## Checking out

Pavilion 21 fulfils its promise. It's designed to soothe. It is sophisticated but casual. Like the resort. Pavilion 21 is \$1600 per night, including meals and non-alcoholic drinks. The leeward pavilions (without pools) will be \$1400 when they open. Two-night minimum stay. Qualia, 02 9433 3349; [www.qualia.com.au](http://www.qualia.com.au).

